

18 June, 2015

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit a revised version of our manuscript for consideration for publication in the *World Journal of Hepatology*. Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17081-edited.doc).

Title: Hepatitis C in HIV Co-infected Individuals – Is this still a 'Special Population'?

Authors: Drosos E Karageorgopoulos, Joanna Allen, Sanjay Bhagani

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17081

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

a) Pg 4, line 18-19 - Please, the sentence should be described in a clear manner. "There was an alarming 18-fold increase in the incidence of new cases in MSM from 0.23 (CI 0.08, -0.54 per 100 person-years in 1998 to 4.09 (95% 2.57-6.18) in 2011. Significant increases were also shown in the Amsterdam MSM cohort from 2000 to 2005 (2005 vs 2000 incidence rate ratio, IRR, 3.41, 95% CI 1.58-7.34)."

This paragraph has been restructured and cut down to clarify the point.

b) Pg 9, line 38; Pg 10, line 1-2 - Please, the sentence should be described in a clear manner. **The whole paragraph has been restructured and re-worded.**

c) Pg 10, line 18-20 - Please, the sentence should be re-evaluated "It simulated disease progression in mono-infection and co-infection with viral hepatitis??- acceleration of liver disease)."

This sentence has been restructured and simplified.

d) The typing of in "95% CI, oo-oo" should be consistent (ex, paragraph 5, line 4 and 5). **The above format is now consistent throughout the article.**

e) Natural history of HCV/HIV co-infection: 1. Please re-check the abbreviation of Peg/IFN/RBV in paragraph 2, line 5 and in "the impact of cART on HCV/HIV co-infection" section, paragraph 6, line 4.

The abbreviation of PegIFN/RBV is now consistent throughout the article.

f) The impact of cART on HCV/HIV co-infection: 1. Paragraph 3, line 3, "is likely □to be in..." what is the □ meaning?

Paragraph edited as per previous point by another reviewer.

g) It is a little confuse of the abbreviation in HIV/HBV (paragraph 5, line 7), HBV/HIV

(paragraph 5, line 10) and in HIV/HBV (paragraph 6, line 1), please re-check it.
This abbreviation is now consistent throughout article.

h) Paragraph 5, the sentence "However, in HCV/HIV co-infection, expanding eligibility increased the share of LRD by 34% as individuals survive for longer, and it was estimated to avert only 3.9 DALYs compared to 4.8 for HIV mono and 5.1 for HBV/HIV." I believe the second half of the sentence is difficult to read because it is missing a word.

This long sentence has been edited and split into two to clarify.

i) Treatment prioritization: 1. Paragraph 3, please delete " - " in HCV/HIV -co-infection (line 1).

This has been deleted.

j) Table 1: The title "Trials of direct-acting antivirals for chronic hepatitis C infection in HIV coinfecting patients." Please recheck the "coinfecting".

Co-infection and co-infected is used consistently in the article rather than coinfection and coinfecting.

k) Please add scheme or figure of pathogenesis of HIV-HCV co-infection, beside narration. Because scheme or figure most prefer to know the core of the sentence

We elected not to add a figure depicting the pathogenetic mechanisms that potentially drive liver injury progression in hepatitis C/HIV co-infection, as there various suggested mechanisms and we found that such a scheme would be rather complicated.

2. The tables have been edited and simplified as per reviewer recommendations.

"Please edit the tables, use informative tables. Use only important thing in the table 3. The tables should be re-evaluated adjusted according to the essential information."

We have simplified Table 1, removing information that we think it was of minor importance, so that it is more legible. We have specifically removed the columns "Design" and "HIV inclusion criteria".

We have also transformed Table 2 into a figure (Figure 1) which contains all the relevant information in a more clear manner.

3. Please edit the reference list, used the common reference list publication (eg: more than 5 authors. only 5 authors noted in the author name and author 6 and more only noted as "et al")

The references have been edited to give only the first 5 authors with further authors denoted by 'et al' as per reviewer's request. The first author has been highlighted in bold type.

We have added the missing PMIDs and DOIs for the referenced articles.

The duplicate reference (previously 101 - same as reference 95) has been deleted.

Changes to the rest of the references have been made accordingly.

We hope that these corrections are satisfactory and thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of all co-authors,

Joanna Allen